

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 19-41, and amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for auto-configuring an internal network interface, wherein the internal network interface supports communication between a logical partition and other participating logical partitions of a computer, and wherein the other participating logical partitions are associated with an internal network, the method comprising:

determining an internal VLAN identification associated with the internal network;
obtaining global parameters and ranges associated with the internal network;
determining that the logical partition is participating with the internal network;
determining partition parameters for the logical partition based upon the global parameters and ranges;

generating a message having the partition parameters and being associated with a network agent; and

invoking the network agent via transmission of the message, the network agent being responsive to the message to configure the internal network interface based upon the partition parameters.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising transmitting the global parameters and internal VLAN identification to a partition manager to create a network switch, wherein the network switch is adapted to transmit transactions from the partition to at least one of the other participating logical partitions.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising generating a request for current partition parameters associated with the internal network interface and presenting the current partition parameters to a user to reconfigure the internal network interface.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving locally stored global parameters in response to the message and comparing the locally stored global parameters with a master copy of the global parameters, to determine whether the locally stored global parameters are consistent, wherein the partition maintains the locally stored global parameters.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising queuing the message for retransmission in response to an error associated with invoking the network agent.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving a reply in response to the message, the reply indicating whether configuration of the internal network interface is successful.
7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein obtaining global parameters and ranges comprises obtaining parameters to govern transactions transmitted via the internal network.
8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein obtaining parameters comprises interacting with a user to define parameters from a group of parameters comprising a frame size, a duplex setting, and a retry value.
9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein determining the partition parameters comprises interacting with a user to define parameters from a group of parameters comprising an Internet protocol address, a port number, and a VLAN interface name.
10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein determining the partition parameters comprises defining the partition parameters for the logical partition, the partition parameters being different from parameters determined for the other

participating logical partitions and being within the ranges associated with the internal network.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein invoking the network agent comprises storing the message in memory associated with the partition and transmitting an interrupt to the partition to indicate receipt of the message.

12. (Currently Amended) A method for auto-configuring an internal network interface, wherein the internal network interface supports communication between a logical partition and other participating logical partitions of a computer, and wherein the other participating logical partitions are associated with an internal network, the method comprising:

receiving a message having partition parameters and global parameters from an internal VLAN manager, wherein the message is associated with a network agent;

invoking the network agent in response to receiving the message; and

configuring the internal network interface based upon the partition parameters via the network agent.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising generating a reply in response to the message wherein the reply indicates whether configuring the internal network interface is successful and transmitting the reply to the internal VLAN manager.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, further comprising validating the partition parameters upon receipt of the message against limitations associated with the logical partition.

15. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein configuring the internal network interface comprises creating a VLAN device driver and associating the VLAN device driver with a TCP/IP stack.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15, wherein configuring the internal network interface comprises modifying the partition parameters associated with the VLAN device driver.

17. (Currently Amended) A method for auto-configuring an internal network interface, wherein the internal network interface supports communication between a logical partition and other participating logical partitions of a logically partitioned server, and wherein the other participating logical partitions are associated with an internal network, the method comprising:

installing an internal VLAN manager on a the logically partitioned server, the internal VLAN manager to generate a message for the logical partition having partition parameters based upon global parameters and ranges associated with the internal network;

installing a network agent in the logical partition, the network agent to be invoked upon receipt of the message by the logical partition and being adapted to configure the internal network interface based upon partition parameters in response to the message; and

utilizing a message transmitter on the logically partitioned server computer system to transmit the message from the internal VLAN manager to the logical partition.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17, wherein utilizing the message transmitter comprises associating the message with the logical partition and transmitting the message to the message transmitter, the message transmitter being adapted to store the message in memory allocated for access by the logical partition and to transmit an interrupt to the logical partition to indicate storage of the message in the memory.

19. (Canceled)

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